CHAPTER 12

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COLORS
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FEATURING KEVIN LIEW

LETTERS
TAYLOR ESPOSITO

EDITOR
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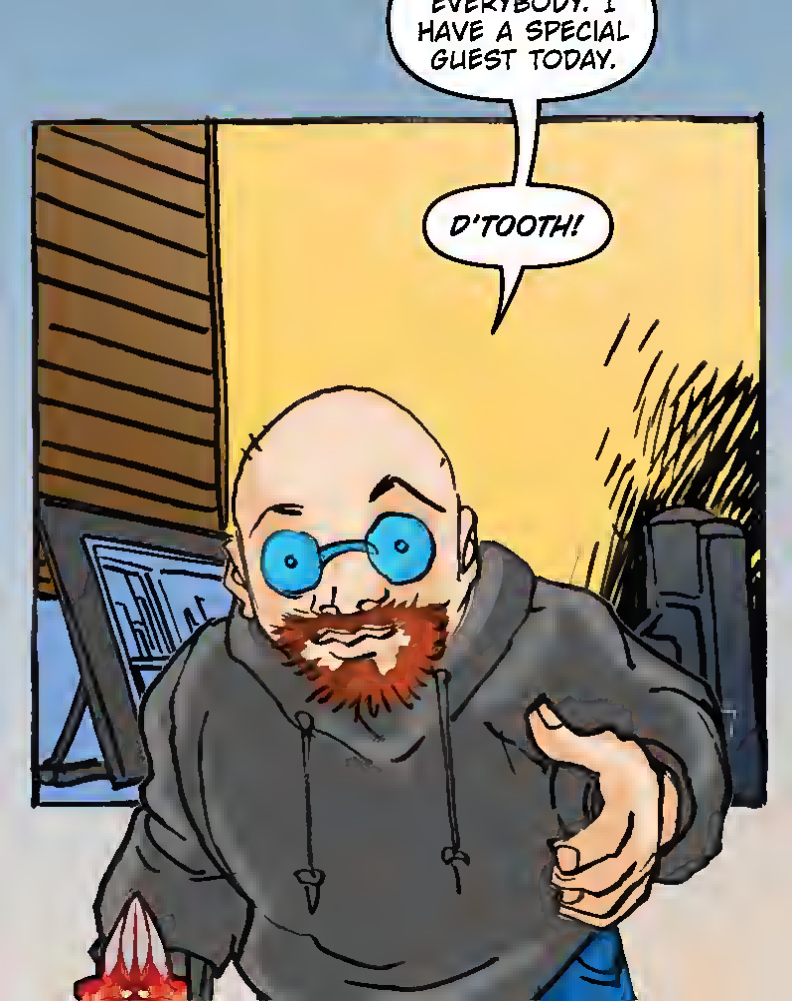
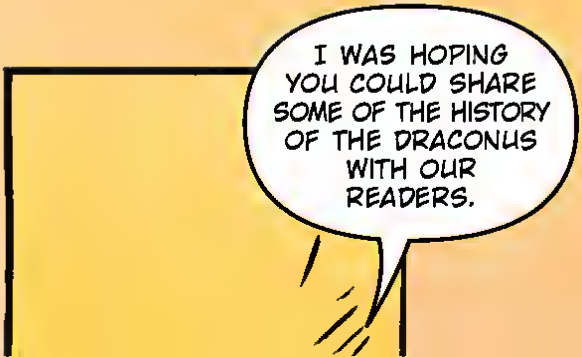
HI

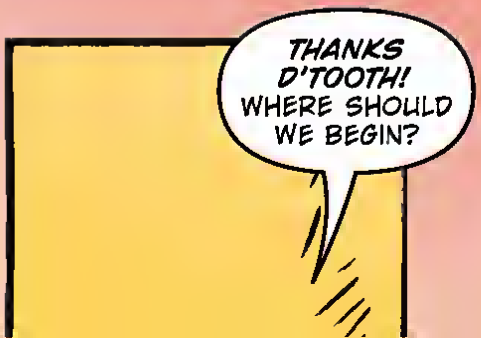

EVERYBODY. I HAVE A SPECIAL GUEST TODAY.
D'TOOTH!

Hmmm.
YOU MISERABLE CREATURE. WHY HAVE YOU SUMMONED ME TO THIS WORLD?

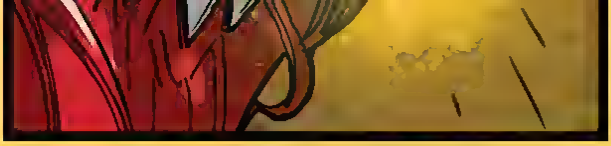

I WAS HOPING YOU COULD SHARE SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THE DRACONUS WITH OUR READERS.

Hmmmph. I DO

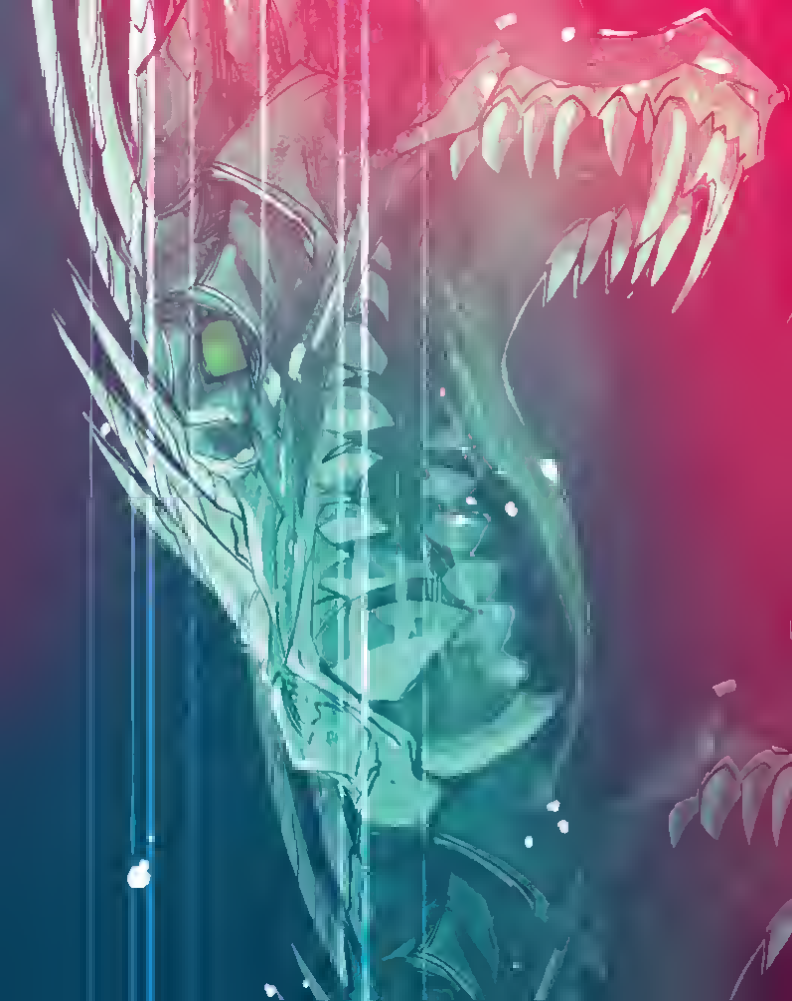
HAVE CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE ON THIS SUBJECT. I WILL INDULGE YOUR REQUEST. PURELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF YOUR SO-CALLED "READERS".


THANKS D'TOOTH! WHERE SHOULD WE BEGIN?

AT THE BEGINNING, YOU FOOL!



"THE ANCIENTS TOLD THE STORY OF HOW THE UNIVERSE WAS CREATED BY FOUR DRACONUS. OUT OF THE DARKNESS, THEY CAME TOGETHER AND WEAVED REALITY WITH THEIR POWERFUL MAGIC AND ENDLESS IMAGINATION. THEY ARE THE GODS OF MIRROR AND THE WORLD IT ORIGINATED FROM.

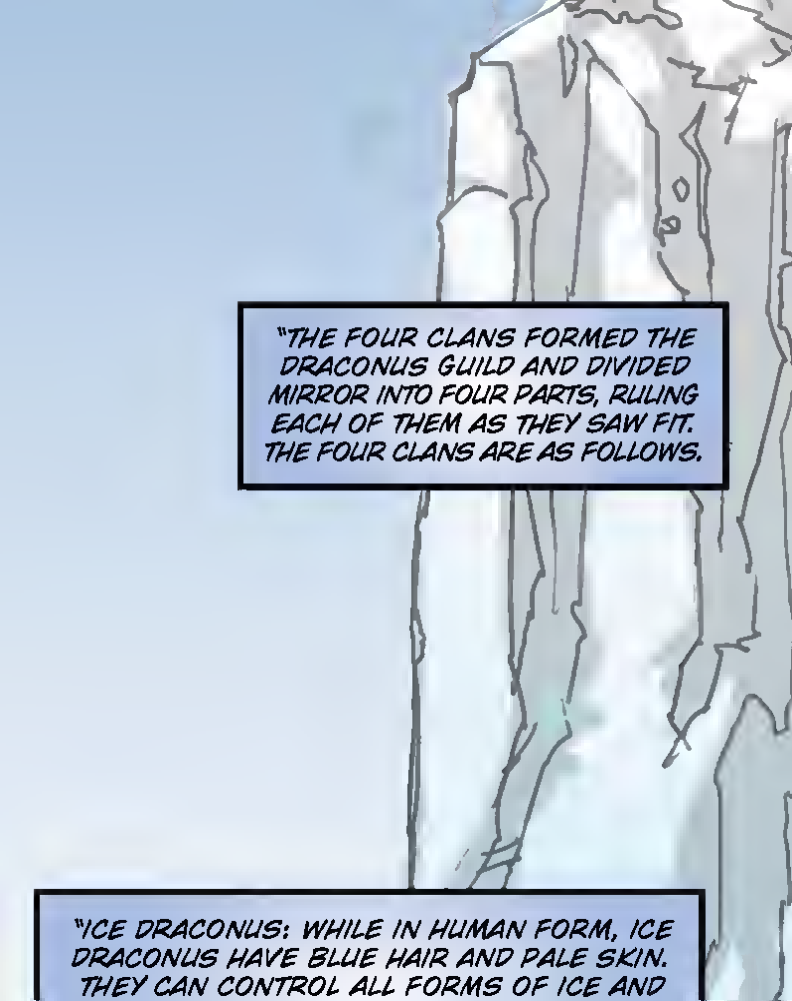


THE UNIVERSE IS A LIVING THING, AND IT DEMANDED BALANCE. IT CREATED ITS OWN OFFSPRING--THE LOWLY ELVARIANS, THE FARGOTH, THE TAR'KEN, AND THE CAINUS. THEIR COMBINED MAGIC PROVED A MATCH FOR THE FOUR DRACONUS CLANS, AND THUS THE BALANCE OF THE UNIVERSE WAS ESTABLISHED.

"THE FOUR GOD DRACONUS GAVE THEIR SOULS TO UNLEASH THEMSELVES INTO HUMAN FORMS. THESE FORMS WERE BASED ON THE ELEMENTS THAT FORMED THE UNIVERSE--ICE, FIRE, EARTH, AND WATER.

"TO CONSERVE THEIR MAGIC ENERGY, THE DRACONUS EVOLVED AND HID THEIR PRIMAL FORMS FROM THE WORLD.

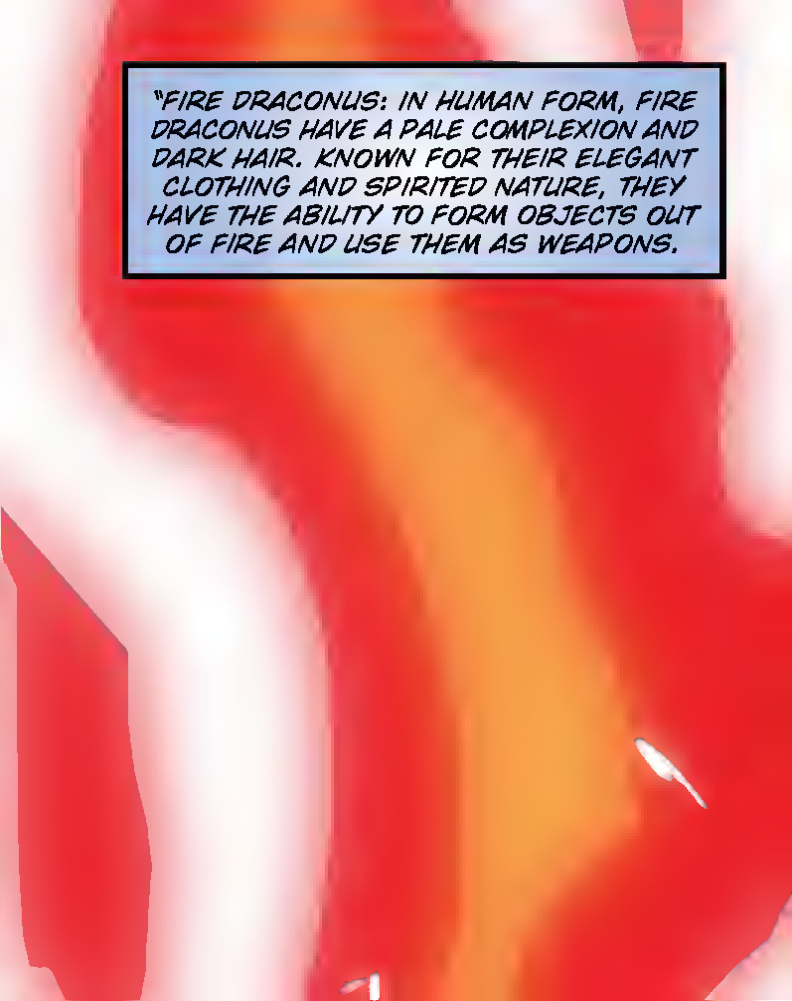
"OVER TIME, IT BECAME "UNFASHIONABLE" TO REVEAL YOUR PRIMAL FORM TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF YOUR CLOSEST FAMILY AND CLAN. YOUR PRIMAL FORM BEING AN INTIMATE LOOK INTO YOUR TRUE NATURE AND NOT SOMETHING YOU WOULD SHARE WITH STRANGERS.


"THE FOUR CLANS FORMED THE DRACONUS GUILD AND DIVIDED MIRROR INTO FOUR PARTS, RULING EACH OF THEM AS THEY SAW FIT. THE FOUR CLANS ARE AS FOLLOWS.
"ICE DRACONUS: WHILE IN HUMAN FORM, ICE DRACONUS HAVE BLUE HAIR AND PALE SKIN. THEY CAN CONTROL ALL FORMS OF ICE AND

WIND, WITH THE ABILITY TO PROJECT ICE AND SNOW BLASTS FROM THEIR HANDS, AS WELL AS FREEZE OBJECTS AND CREATURES WITH A SINGLE TOUCH.

"IN THEIR PRIMAL FORM, THEY HAVE TUFTS OF HAIR AND CRYSTAL SHAPED SCALES. THEY CAN FIRE BLASTS OF ICE AND SNOW FROM THEIR MOUTHS AND WITHSTAND THE COLDEST OF ENVIRONMENTS.

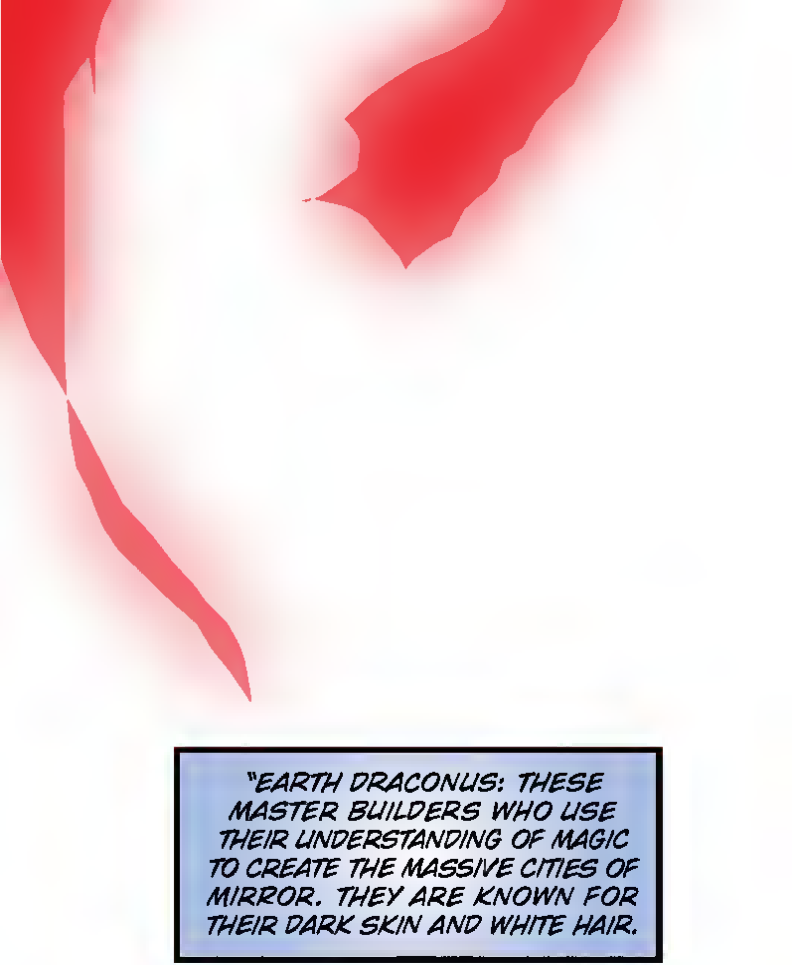
"THE ICE DRACONUS ARE WELL-KNOWN FOR THEIR CONTROL OF FINANCES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF MIRROR. THEY ARE CONSIDERED MASTERS OF COMPLEX MATHEMATICS DUE TO THEIR HISTORY OF HOARDING TREASURE AND THEIR LOVE OF GOLD.


"FIRE DRACONUS: IN HUMAN FORM, FIRE DRACONUS HAVE A PALE COMPLEXION AND DARK HAIR. KNOWN FOR THEIR ELEGANT CLOTHING AND SPIRITED NATURE, THEY HAVE THE ABILITY TO FORM OBJECTS OUT OF FIRE AND USE THEM AS WEAPONS.

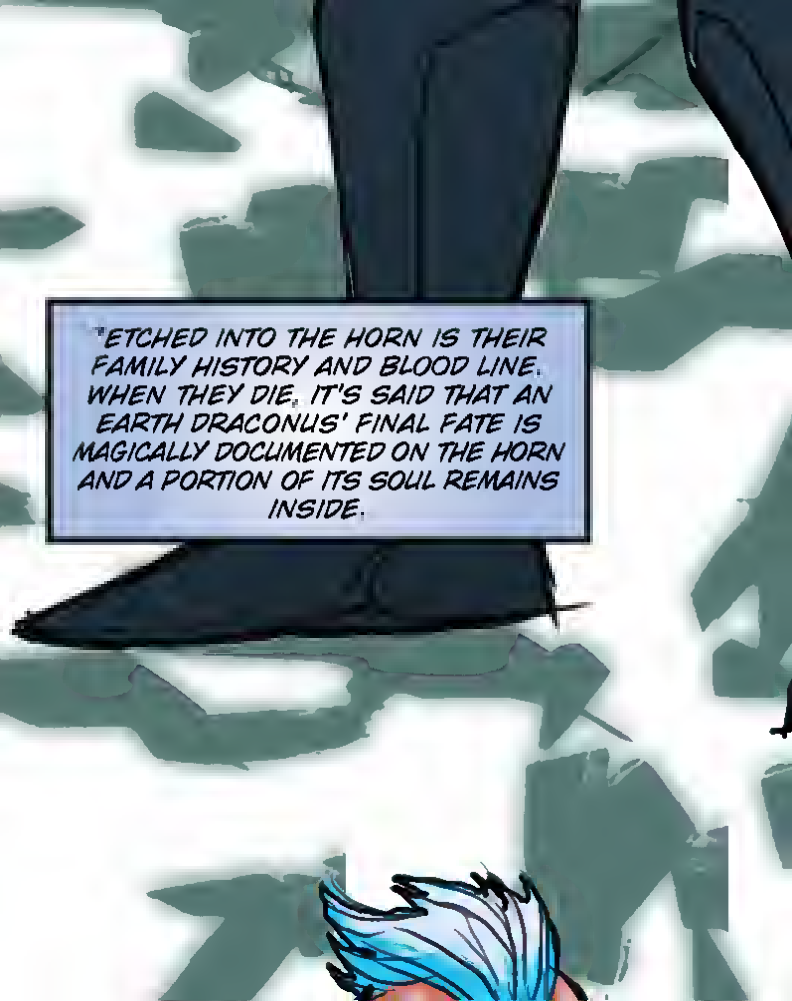
"IN THEIR PRIMAL FORM, THEIR SKIN AND SCALES ARE MADE OF LAVA STONE. THEY CAN ALSO BREATHE FIRE.

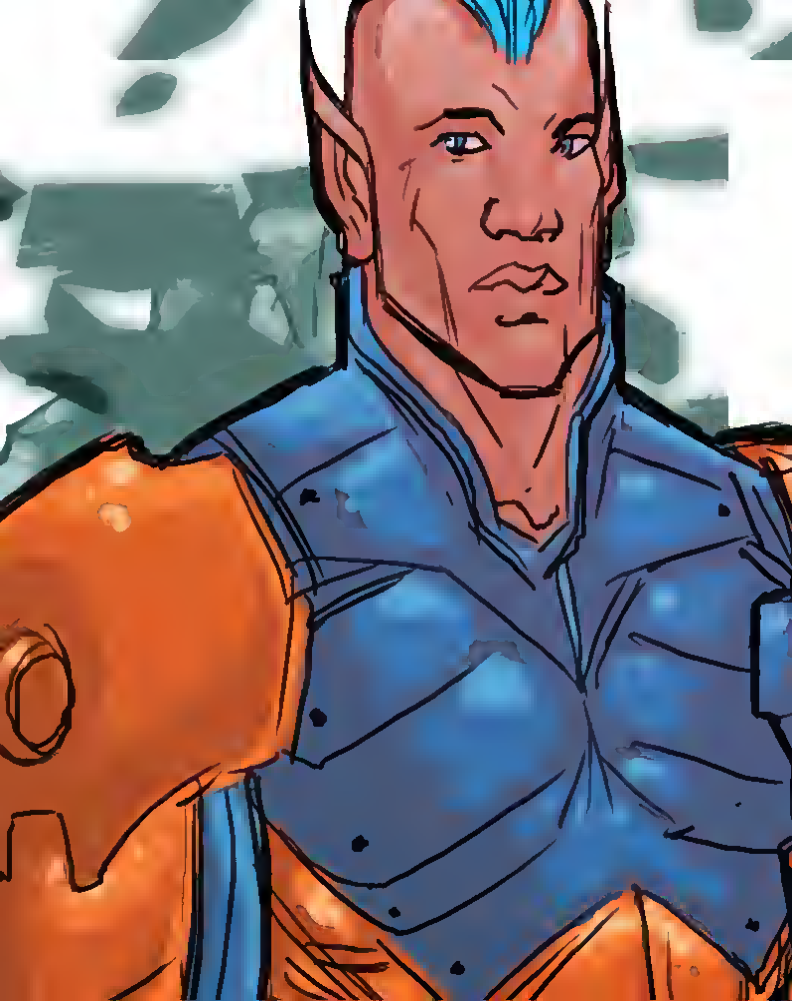
"TO BEST LEVERAGE THEIR

FIERY NATURE AND LOVE OF DEBATE, THEIR PROFESSIONS ARE IN GOVERNMENT AND LAW.

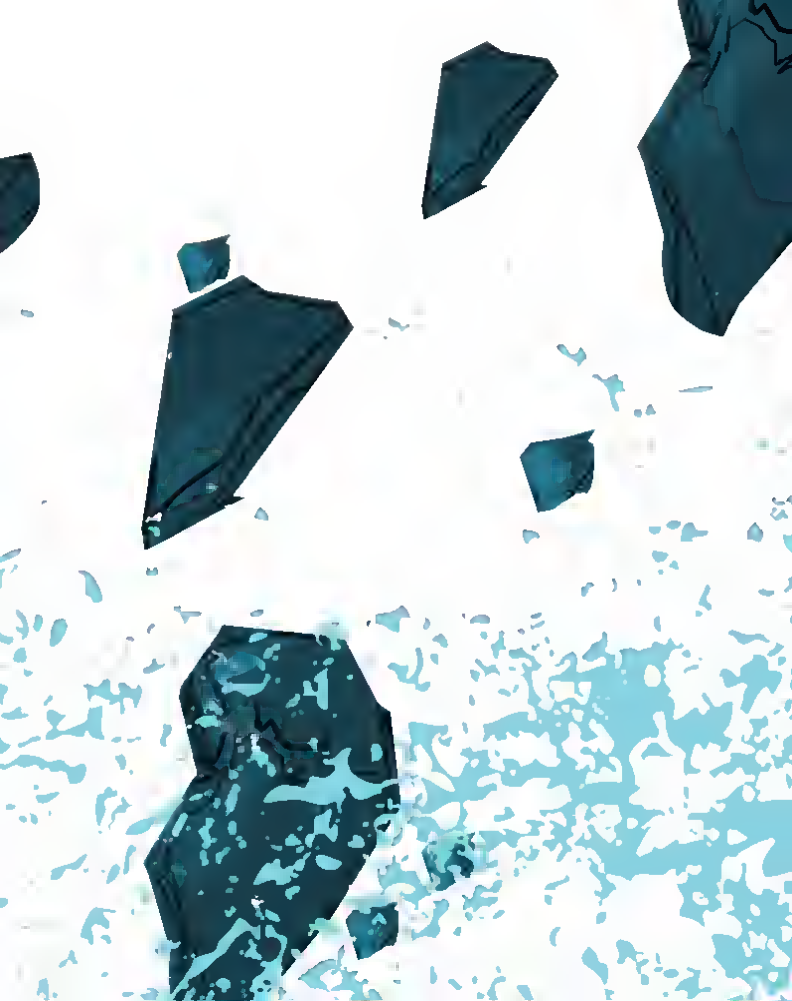

"EARTH DRACONUS: THESE MASTER BUILDERS WHO USE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF MAGIC TO CREATE THE MASSIVE CITIES OF MIRROR. THEY ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR DARK SKIN AND WHITE HAIR.

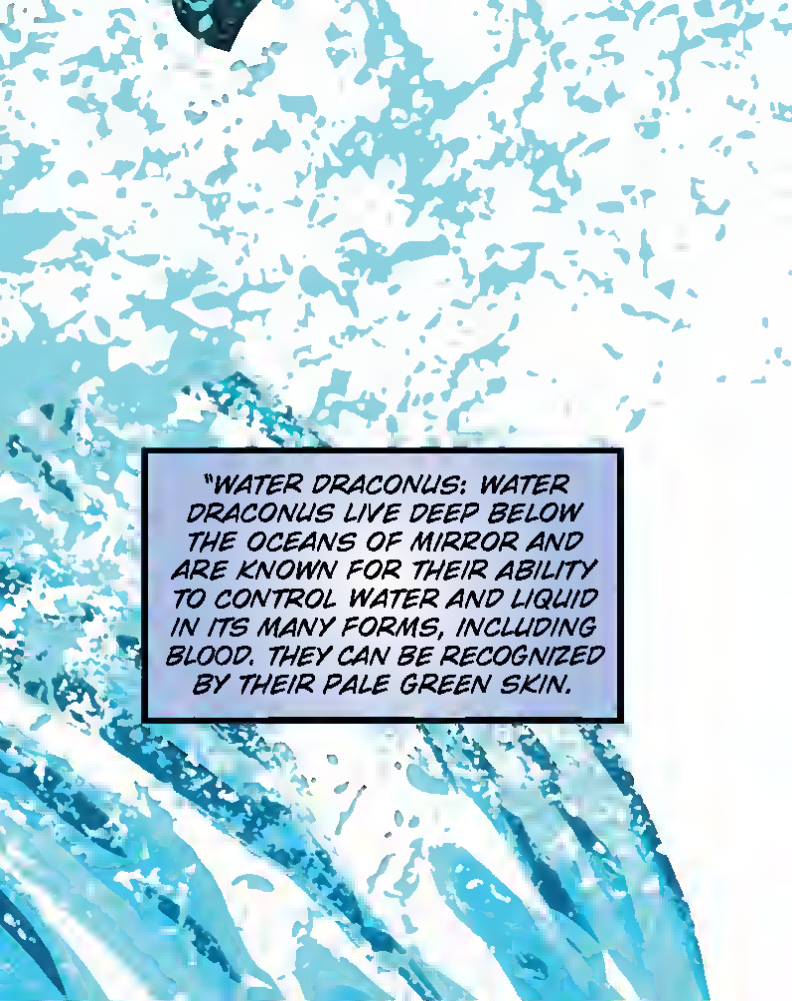
"THE SIGNATURE LOOK OF THE EARTH DRACONUS' PRIMAL FORM ARE THEIR LARGE ARMS AND HANDS, AND MUCH SMALLER WINGS.
"THEY ALSO FEATURE A SINGLE HORN ON THE FRONT OF THEIR HEADS WHEN IN THEIR DRAGON FORM.

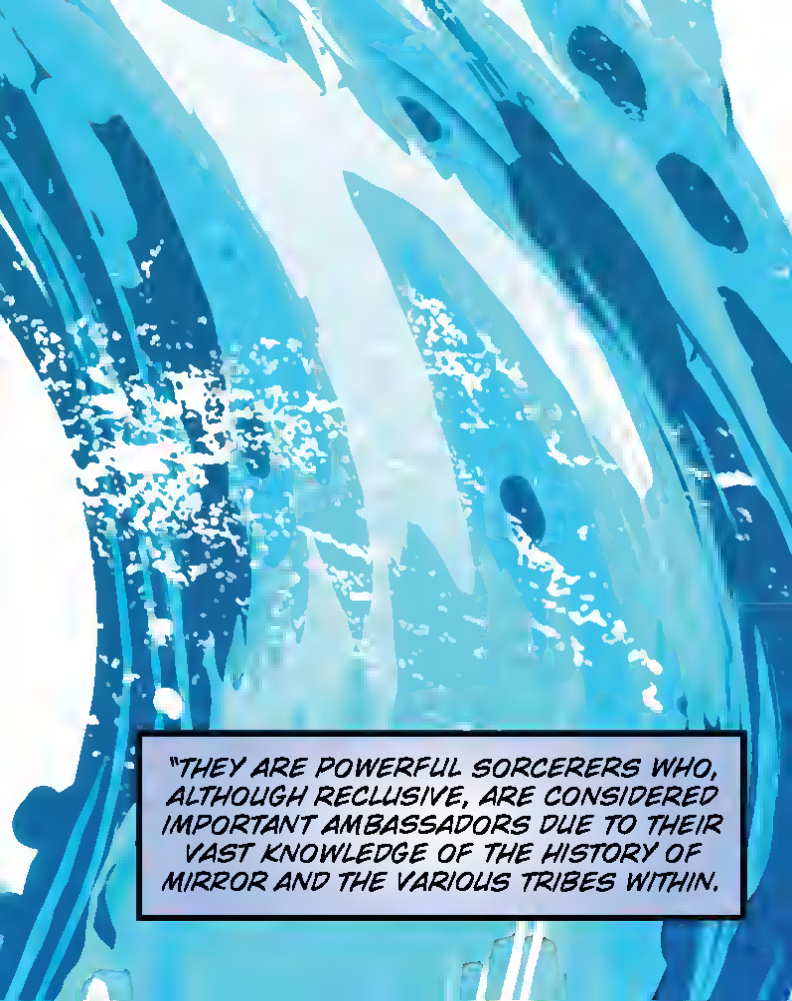

"ETCHED INTO THE HORN IS THEIR FAMILY HISTORY AND BLOOD LINE. WHEN THEY DIE, IT'S SAID THAT AN EARTH DRACONUS' FINAL FATE IS MAGICALLY DOCUMENTED ON THE HORN AND A PORTION OF ITS SOUL REMAINS INSIDE.

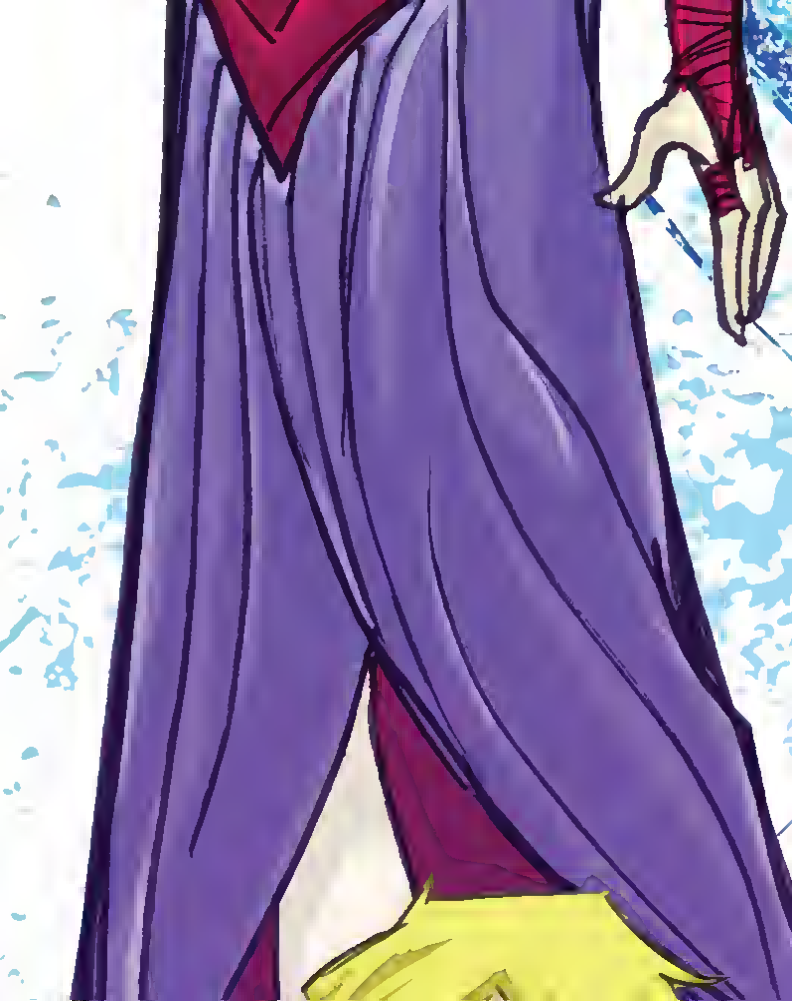


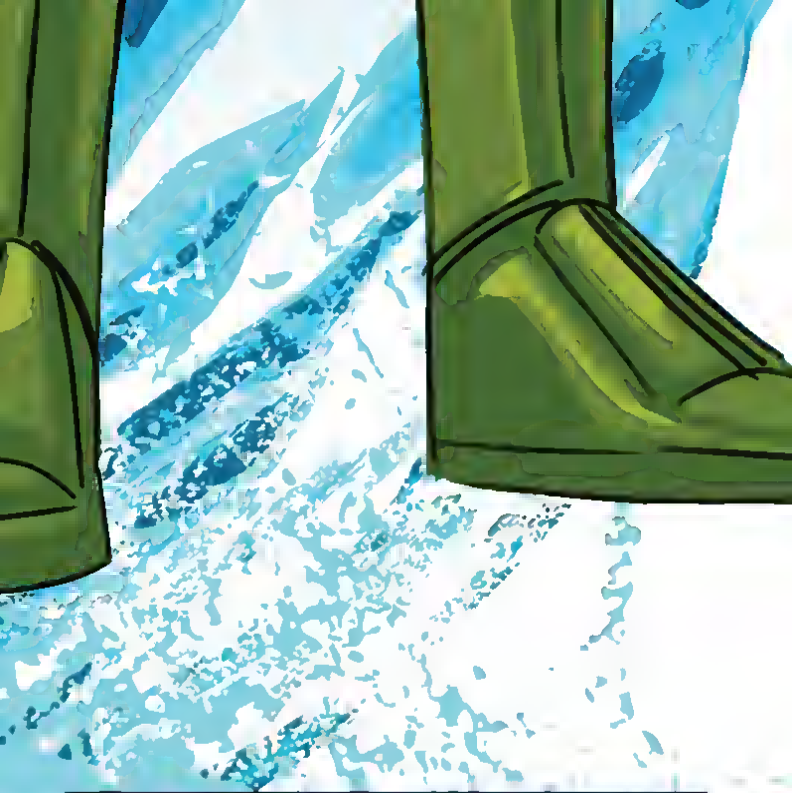
"I COME FROM THE EARTH DRACONUS, AND MY SPIRIT WAS STOLEN FOR THIS PURPOSE! CURSE YOU, JESS MADISON!




"WATER DRACONUS: WATER DRACONUS LIVE DEEP BELOW THE OCEANS OF MIRROR AND ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR ABILITY TO CONTROL WATER AND LIQUID IN ITS MANY FORMS, INCLUDING BLOOD. THEY CAN BE RECOGNIZED BY THEIR PALE GREEN SKIN.


"THEY ARE POWERFUL SORCERERS WHO, ALTHOUGH RECLUSIVE, ARE CONSIDERED IMPORTANT AMBASSADORS DUE TO THEIR VAST KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY OF MIRROR AND THE VARIOUS TRIBES WITHIN.




"THE QUEEN'S ERRAND BOY, KOLIN, COMES FROM THE WATER DRACONUS. OBVIOUSLY, HE HAS SPENT MORE TIME BEING A LAYABOUT THAN MASTERING HIS SKILLS AS A SORCEROR. IF HIS FATHER WAS ALIVE HE WOULD BE ASHAMED. HE IS A DISGRACE TO THE GUILD

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED.

CULTURE. SEE YOU NEXT EP--

FOR MY TROUBLES I DEMAND BLOOD! PERHAPS YOUR "READERS" WOULD BE WILLING TO "SACRIFICE" THEMSELVES FOR DINNER.

Uh. OKAY. SEE YOU NEXT EPISODE.

-GULP-

NEXT EPISODE: LORDS OF TAR'KEN